

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-13 remain in the application. New Claims 14-24 have been added. New Claims 14-19 are dependent either directly or indirectly from Claim 4 and mimic Claims 7-8 and 10-13.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 9 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon the rejected base claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. New independent Claim 20 includes the limitations of Claim 4 and Claim 9 stated to be allowable and therefore should be allowed. Claims 21-24 depend from Claim 20. Support for Claims 20-24 may be found in the specification at paragraphs [028] and [029].

***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Flo-Pak BV (NL-1015126). This rejection is respectfully traversed. A copy of an English translation is enclosed with the Supplement Information Disclosure filed herewith. With respect to Claim 1 the Examiner states that Flo-Pak BV:

discloses a system for conveying a string of cushions 2 comprising an elongated cushion delivery duct 3 having an inlet end and means for conveying a string of cushions 2 from one point to another within said duct; means 9, 19 for diverting said string of cushions to a plurality of work stations; *a separator 25 adapted to sever said string of cushions when said string of cushions is within said elongated cushion delivery duct in response to a signal* generated by sensors 10, 20, 10', 20'; and a controller 6 adapted to generate a signal to control the diversion of the string of cushions and separating said string of cushions as disclosed in page 5; 2-19; conveying means is a blower 4 (claim 2) and a machine conveyor via 3 (claim 3). (emphasis added) *Office Action at page 2.*

Both independent Claims 1 and 4 requires *a separator adapted to sever said string of cushions within the elongated cushion delivery duct in response to a signal*. Contrary to the Examiner's position stated above, the Flo-Pak patent fails to teach or suggest the subject matter

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of Claim 1 in that "a separator adapted to sever said stream of cushions within said elongated cushion delivery duct" is not disclosed. What Flo-Pak teaches is the "The gas bags 2 are produced in the production installation 7. . . . The *production installation 7 includes cutting means 25 for cutting* a strip of mutually connected gas bags into separate strips of three mutually connected gas bags 2." *Flo-Pak Specification page 4 lines 6-8.*

To the contrary, Flo-Pak teaches that its cutting means **25** is before the inlet of transport duct 3, so that the cutting means does not sever the cushion string with the duct. Therefore, the Flo-Pak patent does not anticipate independent Claims 1 and 4 and therefore should be allowed. Such action is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3 depend from Claim 1. Claims 5-8 and 10-12 depend from Claim 4. Claims 9 and 13 were indicated as being allowable. These claims, because they are dependent upon allowable claims should likewise be allowed.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 25, 2005.

  
Janet F. Sherrill